tes of Maharashtra, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there has been number of deaths due to starvation in the Kalahandi district of Orissa during the last three months; and

(c) whether Government have provided some special relief to the drought prone States to avoid starvation deaths and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The Government of Maharashtra, Orisa and Andhra Pradesh have reported drought conditions of varying degrees in parts of the States.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Indo-USSR Protocol on Co-operation in the Water Resources Sector

*794. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the USSR have recently signed a protocol for co-operation in the water resources sector;

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof;

(c) the areas which are likely to be covered by it; and

(d) the amount of foreign exchange earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) A protocol of Cooperation between Ministry of Water Resources, India and Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Management, USSR in the field of irrigation and Water has been signed on 3rd April, 1987.

The Cooperation Programme covers areas like construction of dams and canals using targetted blasting method; designing hydraulic structures on unstable soil; studies for design and construction of High Earth and Rock-fill Dams in areas of seismic activity; ground water exploration and prospective drilling; drainage systems for effective control of land salinization and water logging etc.

Application of new Farm Techniques in Rural Areas

795. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new farm techniques have not reached the rural areas in spite of several years of its invention and application; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken for the application of new farm techniques in the rural areas in full measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No Sir, the modern farm techniques in Agriculture are being disseminated in the rural areas by extension machinery of State Agriculture Departments/State Agriculture Universities.

(b) The steps taken for application of new farm techniques in the rural areas include:

(i) Reorganisation of farm extension services in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra; Orissa; Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal by adopting the training & visit system of extension which provides for transfer of farm technology in agriculture from research scientists to Subject Matter Specialists (SMS) in monthly Workshops, from SMS to Village Extension

Workers (VEW) in fortnightly training sessions and in turn to the farmers by scheduled visits of VEWs.

(ii) Disseminating modern farm technologies through national demonstration, operational research, and lab to land programmes being undertaken by the Institutes under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and agricultural universities.

(iii) Organising demonstrations on improved farm technologies, field days, farm fairs, exhibitions and training camps for the farmers for propagating modern farm tachniques in the rural areas.

(iv) Conducting regional rural youth workshops on specified farm technology subjects in order to provide latest knowledge and skills in agricultural production and offer opportunity to exchange views and experiences.

(v) Organising periodical training programmes through Krishi Vigyan Kendras under ICAR institutes/agricultural Universities and State Farmers Training Centres for farmers and rural youths to make them aware in, and assist them in the adoption of, modern farm techniques.

K. R. process for steel production

796. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 548 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th November, 1986 and state;

(a) the progress made so far for production of steel under K.R. Process which is being introduced for the first time in India;

(b) whether the new technology has been found to be economical, if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the estimated cost of the project together with the details of its installed capacity; and

(d) by when the project is expected to be ready for commissioning?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) SAIL is contemplating putting up a demonstration plant based on K.R. Process for production of liquid iron.

(b) Techno-economics of the plant is being worked out by SAIL.

(c) Cost estimates of the project are being worked out. The capacity of the proposed K.R. demonstration plant is 0.3 million tonnes of liquid iron per year.

(d) Since the project has not yet been approved, the expected commissioning date cannot be anticipated.

अपर गंगा विकास परियोजना को विश्व बैंक की सहायता

797. डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) अपर गंगा सिचाई विकास परियोजना के लिए विश्व बैंक से अब तक कितनी सहायता प्राप्त हो चुकी है ;

(ख) क्या इस परियोजना का निर्माण कार्य निर्धारित अवधि में पूरा हो जाने की आशा है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उत्तर प्रदेश के कौन-कौन से जिले इससे लाभान्वित होंगे तथा इन जिलों की कितनी भूमि की सिचाई होने लगेगी ; और

(घ) यदि उपर्युक्त भाग (ख) का उत्तर "ना" हो तो इस परियोजना का निर्माण-कार्य कब तक पूरा हो जाने की आशा है ?

जल संसाधन मंत्री (श्री बी० शंकरानन्द) (क) विश्व बैंक के साथ जन, 1984 में किये गए करार के तहत बैंक